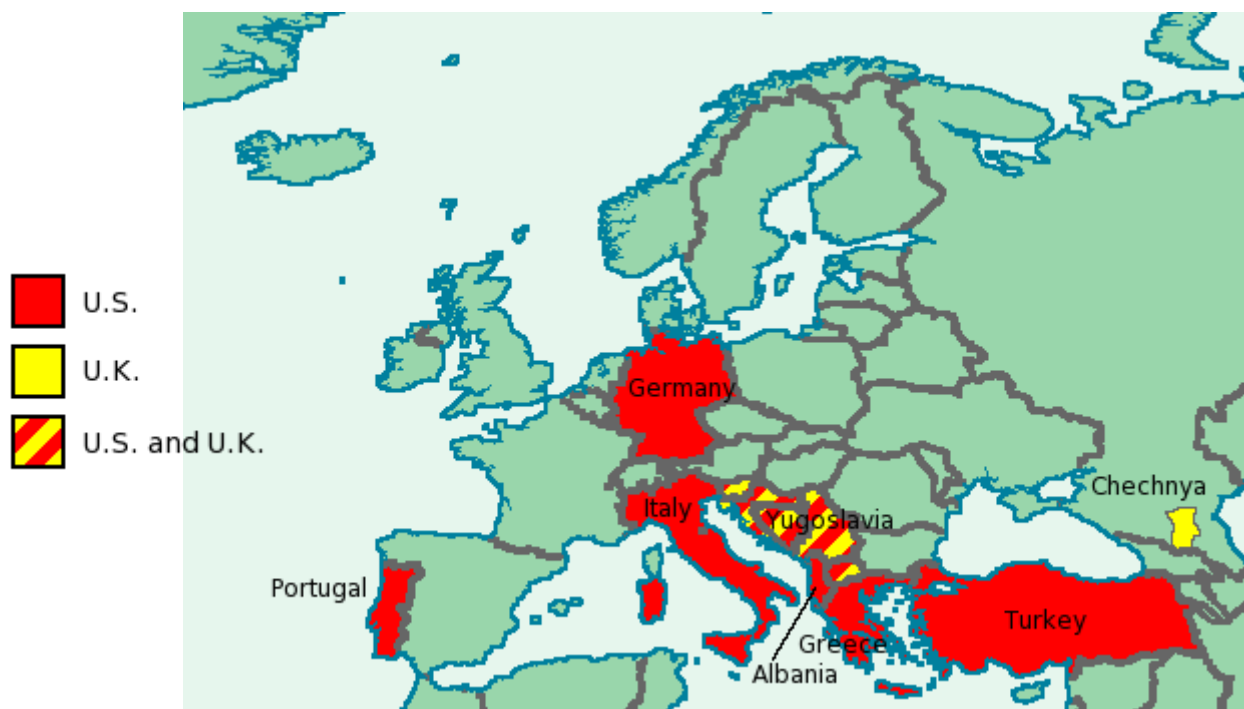


Home Central America and Mexico South America Caribbean Europe Africa Middle East Asia Australia and The Pacific Islands

Intervention and Exploitation: US and UK Government International Actions Since 1945

Europe



[Germany](#) | [Portugal](#) | [Italy](#) | [Yugoslavia](#) | [Albania](#) | [Greece](#) | [Chechnya](#) | [Turkey](#)

To access the chronology for a country, just click on the country of interest or use the text link.

Germany

1950s:

The CIA orchestrates a wide-ranging campaign of sabotage, terrorism, dirty tricks, and psychological warfare against East Germany. This is one of the factors which leads to the building of the Berlin Wall in 1961. [1]

Portugal

1975:

CIA engineers overthrow of General Vasco dos Santos Goncalves. [1]

Italy

1945:

Mussolini, who had been rescued from prison by Germans, is captured and executed by Italian partisans. [1]

1946:

Referendum votes for republic to replace monarchy. [1]

1947:

Italy cedes land and territories under peace treaty. [1]

Using every trick in the book, the U.S. interfered in the elections to prevent the Communist Party from coming to power legally and fairly. This perversion of democracy was done in the name of "saving democracy" in Italy. The Communists lost. For the next few decades, the CIA, along with American corporations, continued to intervene in Italian elections, pouring in hundreds of millions of dollars and much psychological warfare to block the specter that was haunting Europe. [2] [3]

1948:

New constitution. Christian Democrats win elections. [1]

1951:

Italy joins European Coal and Steel Community. [1]

1955:

Italy joins United Nations. [1]

1957:

Founder member of European Economic Community. [1]

1963:

Italian Socialist Party joins Christian Democrat-led coalition under Prime Minister Aldo Moro. [1]

1970s:

US intelligence services instigate and abet rightwing terrorism, in order to halt what it saw as a slide to the left. [4]

1972:

Giulio Andreotti becomes prime minister - a post he will hold seven times in 20 years. [1]

1976-78:

Communist election gains lead to voice in policy making. [1]

1978:

Former Prime Minister Aldo Moro kidnapped and murdered by fanatical left-wing group, the Red Brigades. Abortion legalised. [1]

1980:

Bombing of Bologna station kills 84, linked to right-wing extremists. [1]

1983:

Bettino Craxi becomes Italy's first Socialist prime minister since war. [1]

1984:

Roman Catholicism loses status as state religion. [1]

1991:

Communists rename themselves Democratic Party of the Left. [1]

1992:

Revelations of high level corruption spark several years of arrests and investigations. [1]
Top anti-Mafia prosecutor, Giovanni Falcone, his wife and three bodyguards killed in car bomb attack. [1]

1993:

Bribery scandal leads to Craxi's resignation as leader of Socialist Party. He later flees the country, is tried and sentenced in absentia to imprisonment but dies in Tunisia in 2000. [1]

1994:

March - Freedom Alliance wins election. The coalition, which includes Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia, Northern League and neo-Fascist National Alliance, collapses by end of year following clashes with anticorruption magistrates and a battle with the trade unions over pension reform. [1]

1995-96:

Lamberto Dini heads government of technocrats. Austerity budget. [1]

1996:

Centre-left Olive Tree alliance wins election. Romano Prodi becomes prime minister. [1]

1997:

Earthquakes strike Umbria region, causing extensive damage to Basilica of St Francis of Assisi. Four killed. [1]

Prodi government loses confidence vote. Massimo D'Alema becomes prime minister. [1]

1999:

Carlo Ciampi becomes president. [1]

2000:

April - D'Alema resigns after poor regional election results and is replaced by Giuliano Amato. [1]

2001:

May/June - A centre-right coalition, led by Silvio Berlusconi of the Forza Italia party, wins the general elections. [1]

Berlusconi forms new coalition government which includes the leaders of two right-wing parties, Gianfranco Fini of the National Alliance and Umberto Bossi of the Northern League as well as the pro-European Renato Ruggiero who becomes foreign minister. [1]

October - First constitutional referendum since 1946 sees vote in favour of major constitutional change giving greater autonomy to the country's 20 regions in tax, education and environment policies. [1]

2002:

January - Euro replaces the lira. [1]

Foreign Minister Renato Ruggiero resigns in protest at the Eurosceptical views of right-wing cabinet colleagues. [1]

February/March - Controversy as parliament approves bill enabling Berlusconi to keep control of his businesses. [1]

October - Lower house of parliament passes controversial criminal reform bill which critics allege is intended to help PM Berlusconi avoid trial on corruption charges. [1]

2003:

May/June - Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi appears in Milan court at his own trial on corruption charges relating to business dealings in the 1980s. He asserts that he is the victim of a conspiracy by a politically motivated judiciary. [1]

June - Mr Berlusconi's trial halted after parliament passes law granting immunity from prosecution to five holders of key state posts, including the prime minister. [1]

November - Italy declares national day of mourning after 19 of its servicemen are killed in a suicide bomb attack on their base in southern Iraq. [1]

Multi-billion euro fraud uncovered at Parmalat food-manufacturing giant. The company is declared insolvent. [1]

2004:

January - Constitutional Court throws out law granting Mr Berlusconi and other top state post holders immunity from prosecution. Mr Berlusconi's trial resumes in April. [1]

October - Forced expulsion from island of Lampedusa of hundreds of African asylum seekers criticised by UN. [1]

December - After a trial lasting four years, Prime Minister Berlusconi is cleared of corruption. [1]

Summary

1945: Mussolini executed.

1946: Republic to replace monarchy.

1947: US interferes in elections to prevent Communist party from coming to power. For the next few decades, the CIA, along with American corporations, continues to intervene in Italian elections, pouring in hundreds of millions of dollars and much psychological warfare.

1948: New constitution.

1955: Italy joins UN.

1957: Founder member of EEC.

1970s: US intelligence services instigate and abet rightwing terrorism, in order to halt what it saw as a slide to the left.

1976-78: Communist election gains.

1978: Former Prime Minister Aldo Moro kidnapped and murdered.

1983: Italy's first Socialist prime minister since war.

2002: Euro replaces the lira.

Yugoslavia

1918:

As an outcome of World War I, the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats, and Slovenes is formed. Croatia, Slovenia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina had been part of the fallen Austro-Hungarian empire; Serbia and Montenegro existed as an independent state (Macedonia was then part of Serbia). [1]

1929:

The monarchy's name is changed to Yugoslavia [1]

1941-1945:

The Axis invasion causes panic in Yugoslavia, as foreign occupiers partition the country and terrorize its people. Bloody encounters involve both invading and domestic forces throughout the four years of war. The Communist-led Partisans rise from near oblivion to dominate the country's resistance movement. They emerge from the war in firm control of the entire country. [11]

1945:

After World War II, the monarchy becomes a communist republic under Prime Minister Tito, now called the Federal People's Republic of Yugoslavia. It was composed of six republics: Serbia, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Slovenia, and Montenegro, as well as two provinces, Kosovo and Vojvodina. [1]

1949:

Initially Tito tries to maintain independence from both the West and the Soviets, but this leaves Yugoslavia too isolated and in 1949, fearing Soviet aggression, Tito starts to receive Western aid. [11]

1951:

The US starts to ship weapons to Yugoslavia. [11]

1950s:

Tito introduces "Socialist Self-Management". State ownership is reduced and replaced with social ownership, with workers controlling enterprises. Government appointed directors retain veto powers over workers' council decisions. Foreign trade remains under central control. Both agriculture and industry grow and between 1957 and 1960 Yugoslavia has the second highest economic growth in the world.[11]

Tito tries to maintain a measure of independence from both East and West. To this end he forges links with similar minded nations including Egypt under Gamal Abdel Nasser and India under Jawaharlal Nehru. [11]

1960s:

Rising inflation and a foreign trade deficit lead to political reforms and opening up to foreign investment. Tensions rise between the more developed Northern republics who must support the poorer, less industrialised Southern regions. [11]

1971:

Yugoslavia becomes a federation of republics and provinces. The federal government retains control only over common areas such as defence, foreign affairs, foreign trade and civil rights. [11]

1970s:

Unrest in the republics increases, particularly in Croatia where there are calls for independence. Tito intervenes by replacing the leadership in several regions and clamping down on dissidents. [11]

1980:

Tito's tight rein on Yugoslavia keeps ethnic tensions in check until his death in 1980. Without his pan-Slavic influence, ethnic and nationalist differences begin to flare. [1]

1980s:

At the time of Tito's death the country was already suffering high inflation and high foreign debt. In the 1980's the leadership, encouraged by US policy, tries to address this by moving towards a more Western "free" market. IMF loans are tied to conditions which further erode industry and the welfare state, increase foreign debt and lower standards of living. [12] [32]

The economic measures lead to thousands of strikes from 1987. The bureaucracy collapses, nationalist leaders rise to power in the republics and the republics start to work against each other. Ethnic divisions are thus greatly exacerbated. [13]

In a fragmenting Yugoslavia people groups fear being left with minority status in any succeeding state. "War in Bosnia and Croatia was not the inevitable product of centuries of ethnic hatreds. It was created from ambition, fear, and incompetence - local and international." [29]

1989:

With the end of the Cold War Germany looks to expand trade in Eastern Europe. Many suspect Germany would like to see Yugoslavia break up to aid this expansion. [32]

Milosevic abolishes Kosovo's autonomous status. He fires a hundred thousand ethnic Albanian workers and bans the use of their language in schools. Dozens more die protesting these proscriptions. [33]

By this time emigration of Albanians to Kosovo, which was encouraged by Tito, and a higher birthrate in Muslim families, has led to the population of Kosovo being 85% ethnic Albanian and 15% Roma and ethnic Serbs. [33]

1990:

Milosevic, the president of Serbia, at a time when nationalist/separatist tendencies are flaring up in the republics, fans the flames by calling only for a united Serbia. [33]

Faced with a plummeting economy Milosevic halts the IMF and U.S.-mandated reforms. He brings "structural adjustment" to a standstill. One month later, in early November, the U.S. Congress passes Foreign Operations Appropriations Law 101-513. Annual "foreign operations" appropriations facilitate U.S. corporate control of many of the world's economies by granting -- or withholding -- major funding to international financial institutions such as the World Bank and the Asian, African and Inter-American Development Banks. Section 599a of this Act cuts off all aid, credit, and loans to Yugoslavia and demands immediate, separate elections in each of the country's six

republics. The U.S. State Department would alone determine the validity of each election and resume aid to individual regions if the victors were deemed "democratic." [33]

1991:

February - The EC tacitly encourages the secession of Slovenia and Croatia by urging for multi-party elections before Yugoslavia could join Europe. [32]

March - Serbs in Croatia proclaim an autonomous Krajina, which is recognized by Milosevic. In clashes over control of local police stations, the first people are killed in that area. [27]

The Serbs have been suffering under the Croatian leadership's increasingly discriminatory policies and nazi leanings. [34]

June - Slovenia and Croatia each declare independence. With 90% of its population ethnic Slovenians, Slovenia is able to break away with only a brief period of fighting. Because 12% of Croatia's population is Serbian, however, rump Yugoslavia fights hard against its secession for the next four years. As Croatia moves towards independence, it evicts most of its Serbian population. [1]

The manner in which Slovenia and Croatia move to independence is in breach of the Yugoslavian constitution, but is recognised by Germany and then the rest of the EEC. This recognition is a violation of international treaties such as the Helsinki Final Act, the Montevideo Convention and the United Nations Charter. [14]

In their campaigns to take control of Serb dominated areas of Croatia, Serbian forces use terror to drive away local populations ("ethnic cleansing"), they also rely on heavy weapons to attack urban areas, because of a shortage of infantry. [27]

September - UN imposes an arms embargo on all parts of what had been Yugoslavia. [20]

1992:

January - A UN arranged ceasefire between the Croatia and the Yugoslavian forces begins. Thousands have died and destruction is widespread. A peacekeeping force of 14 000 is installed. [15]

Macedonia declares independence. [1]

March - Muslim, Serb and Croatian leaders in Bosnia sign an agreement for its division. After meeting USA's ambassador to Yugoslavia, Warren Zimmerman, the Muslim leader pulls out of the deal. Two days later Bosnia holds a referendum on independence, which is boycotted by the Serb population. [16] [17]

April - Bosnia and Herzegovina declares independence. The most ethnically diverse of the Yugoslav republics, Bosnia is 43% Muslim, 31% Serbian, and 17% Croatian (according to the 1991 Yugoslavian census). [1]

Both the Croatian and Serbian presidents had planned to partition Bosnia between themselves. Attempting to take control of the areas where they are in a majority, the

ethnic Serbs, with the help of the Serbian Yugoslav army, takes the offensive and lays siege, particularly on Sarajevo. Muslims in these regions are driven out or flee. Croats also begin carving out their own communities. By the end of Aug. 1992, rebel Bosnian Serbs had conquered over 60% of Bosnia. Taking control of regions in which they had previously been in a majority.[18] [29]

Many Muslims are driven from their villages into the larger cities. It is reported that "ethnic cleansing" becomes general, including the extensive use of rape and the creation of concentration camps to hold Muslim men, where many are said to be murdered. The persistence of these reports leads to escalating commitment by the UN, culminating in pledges to use force and the enlistment of NATO forces as an instrument. [27] But the Western media almost entirely ignores the abuses and provocation by the Muslim forces, giving a highly imbalanced portrayal of events. [28] [29]

Many of the reports of concentration camps and extensive rape prove to be false. [33] The Serbian Milosevic regime supports much of Bosnian Serb policy, but does not control it. The Bosnian Serbs have a parliament of their own and new leaders like Premier Radovan Karadzic and General Ratko Mladic. [27]

Serbia and Montenegro form the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, with Slobodan Milosevic as its leader. This new government, however, is not recognized by the United States as the successor state to the former Yugoslavia. [1]

May - The UN Security Council impose economic sanctions on the government of Serbia. [19] Two days later a UN report certifies that Belgrade was in full compliance with demands that all federal troops withdraw from Bosnia. The World Court had also just ruled that Yugoslavia was not the aggressor in the Bosnian conflict. [33]

MI6 draws up plans to assassinate Yugoslav president Milosevic, according to an MI6 official. These plans are apparently not carried out.[2] [3]

November - In a New York Times article "Operation Balkan Storm: Here's a Plan" retired U.S. Air Force Chief of Staff General Michael J. Dugan says "A win in the Balkans would establish U.S. leadership in the post-Cold War world in a way that Operation Desert Storm never could". Dugan is best remembered for an unusually candid interview before the Gulf War where he laid out very precise plans for the destruction of Iraq. He was relieved of his command for being too frank in describing the Pentagon's war plans at a time when the U.S. was claiming to the UN that it wanted to impose sanctions on Iraq to pursue a diplomatic solution. However, four months later the war unfolded almost exactly as Dugan had described. [35]

1992-1995:

Despite the UN arms embargo the USA allows arms to be supplied to Bosnia and Croatia. [21] [22]

1993:

USA facilitates the shipping of arms purchased by Iran and Turkey with the financial backing of Saudi Arabia, into Bosnia via Croatia. The Croatians take 20%-50% of the arms as a "transit tax". Afghan Mujahedin fighters are also flow in. [21] [22]

The Bosnian and Croatian armies receive training from US firm Military Professional Resources Inc, a collection of former Pentagon top brass. [33]

The Croats themselves also obtain massive quantities of illegal weapons from Germany, Belgium and Argentina - again in contravention of the UN arms embargo. The German secret services are fully aware of the trade. [22]

Serbs, who make up less than 40% of the population of Bosnia, control some 70% of its area. Land in which, as a rural people, they had formerly been the majority population.

[29] Karadzic is able to persuade the Bosnian Serb Parliament to accept several partition plans that gave Serbs between 50 and 52 percent of the country. Pressure from rump Yugoslavia plays a role: Milosevic wants to end the crisis, to end sanctions and curb an annual inflation rate which soon reaches 2 million percent. [27]

The Bosnian Muslim government, on the other hand, resists a settlement while it pursues international favour in the media, with some success, as Western reporters uniformly condemn Serbian excesses. [27] In fact the Western media is heavily biased against the Serbians and reports many events inaccurately to the extent that they influence the international reaction to the war. [28] [29]

April - The UN declares Srebrenica a "safe haven". [26]

May - The UN extends the "safe haven" to include five other Bosnian towns: Sarajevo, Tuzla, Zepa, Gorazde and Bihac. The Bosnian President, Alija Izetbegovic, dismisses the concept. He says the havens will become death traps, where refugees, thinking they were safe, would instead become easy targets for Bosnian Serb forces. [26]

June - The Serb part of Croatia (Krajina) overwhelmingly votes for integration with Serbs in Bosnia and Serbia proper. [15]

1994:

February - NATO aircraft shoot down four Bosnian Serb planes which had just bombed a plant producing heavy weapons for the Bosnian army. [21] [25]

Bosnian Serb forces are blamed for an attack on civilians in Sarajevo which kills more than 60 people. It is later revealed that the Bosnian forces may have attacked their own people in order to lure NATO into the war. [21]

February-November - NATO carries out various limited air strikes against Serb targets, in order to protect the safe havens of Gorazde and Sarajevo. [25]

In this campaign the Muslims have consistently tried to use the United Nations and NATO (with the attendant safe areas, no-fly zones, exclusion zones, and demilitarized zones) as a shield, allowing themselves to weaken their forces in one area - depending on the United Nations or the international community to protect it - while concentrating their forces elsewhere. In the winter of 1993-94 the Sarajevo government stripped the

capital's defenses to release troops to fight against the Croats in central Bosnia, counting on their public diplomacy efforts to manage the risk to Sarajevo. It was a near-run thing, but in the end the city was protected by the threat of NATO air strikes and the imposition of a heavy-weapons exclusion zone. [29]

March - The Croatian government and representatives of the Serb occupied part of Croatia (Krajina) sign a cease-fire. [15]

November - The USA publicly declares it will no longer support the arms embargo against Bosnia. [23]

1995:

The USA sends military advisors to Bosnia and provides training for the Croatian forces. [21]

May - Croatia retakes western Slavonia. [15] In the process it inflicts ethnic cleansing on the Serbs there. [29]

Serbs resume attack on Sarajevo and take some UN troops hostage. [26]

June - Serbs begin to release UN hostages. [26]

July - Serbs overrun UN "safe haven" of Srebrenica, forcing the lightly armed Dutch peacekeeping troops to withdraw. Muslims are expelled from the city. [26] Hundreds and possibly thousands of men and boys are killed. The most often quoted figure is 7,000 to 8,000, but far less bodies have been recovered and very few identified, nor is it clear when these people were killed. [54] [55]

August - Croatia retakes Krajina, aided by American planes which knock out Serb rocket and radar installations. An AP dispatch filed during the offensive reports that Croat forces shelled and strafed columns of Serb refugees. Canadian General Alain Forand, who was assigned to UN "peacekeeping" duty in Krajina during Operation Storm, has testified, "There is no doubt in my mind that the Croats knew they were shelling civilian targets" in the city of Knin, which was where the Krajina Serb parliament was located. [21] [24]

Shells hit a market in Sarajevo killing 37 people. The UN concludes that Bosnian Serbs are responsible and launches air strikes against Bosnian Serb targets. It is later found that Bosnian forces may well have been responsible for the attack on the market. [21] [25]

The Bosnian government claimed the number of dead and missing to be about 250 000. Many have been skeptical of that figure, with some suggesting the real number could be as low as 25 000, although other estimates are more frequently in the 70 000 to 100 000 range. In April the government lowered its estimate to just over 145 000, about 3 percent of the prewar population. [29]

If anyone doubts the capacity of Bosnia's non-Serb population to inflict ethnic cruelty, let him or her visit the Croat enclaves around Kiseljak or Vitez. The scarred shells of Catholic churches and Muslim mosques as well as thousands of private homes give

ample testimony to the barbarity of Muslim and Croat violence, and these Muslim and Croat troops likely did what they did for much the same reasons as their Serb neighbors: revenge for real and alleged sins of the past and the perceived demands of present security. There are times when the distinctions among the factions appear more a question of power and opportunity than morality. [29]

November - A peace settlement for war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina is brokered in the United States. Bosnia is to remain a single state, but most power will be devolved to two new territories - a Muslim-Croat federation and a Bosnian-Serb republic. But splits begin to appear in the fragile treaty almost as soon as it had been initialled by the leaders. 60 000 NATO led troops are to keep the peace. [18] [30] Many say the agreement is unworkable and the UN commander in Sarajevo, General Jean-Rene Bachelet, has accused the US government of using the Dayton talks as part of its re-election campaign. [31]

1996:

In the southern Yugoslavian province of Kosovo, the militant Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) begins attacking Serbian policeman. [1]

1997:

November - The KLA kill Qamil Gashi, the Albanian chairperson of the Serbian Socialist Party municipal council in Kosovo. The SPS was working to solve Kosovo's problems peacefully. [33] [36]

The KLA grows rapidly as foreign mercenaries, money and arms start to pour in. Mercenaries from Germany and the US take over command. [36]

1998:

The new KLA begins serious military operations, not only killing isolated Albanian and Serbian individuals but attacking government buildings and police stations. [36]

The KLA is trained and supported by the CIA, the German BND, the SAS and US company MPRI. [36] [38] [39] [40]

March - With the US envoy Robert Gelbard still declaring the KLA "without any question a terrorist group", Milosevic send in Serbian Interior police to shut down the KLA. A 50 person massacre among the Jashari clan, a "roots" family of the KLA, ignites a general uprising in the countryside. Summer sees villages torched in Serb offensives, but KLA territory gradually increased. [33] [37]

June - Sali Berisha, former president of Albania, allows the KLA to use his estate in Albania as its headquarters. Sali Berisha came to power in Albania in 1992 with US support, allowed the US to put a military base in Albania and turned over control of the Albanian secret police to the CIA. [36] [53]

October - The U.S. arrange a ceasefire. Serb troops withdraw a prescribed distance; the zone was to remain demilitarized. But KLA forces advance and resupply these positions within hours. [33]

November - Clinton launches a plan for the overthrow of the government of Yugoslavia. [3]

1999:

January - The Yugoslav police invite members of the international press and the OSCE to observe their actions against a KLA stronghold in the town of Racak. After several hours of fighting and a number of casualties amongst the KLA and Yugoslav forces, the Yugoslavs prevail and seize many KLA weapons. The observers report no civilian deaths. The next day the KLA show journalists 20+ dead bodies, in civilian dress, near Racak. Even before investigations are carried out the EU and US say the Yugoslavs have massacred civilians at Racak. Investigations can find no evidence of a massacre and no one from Racak claims the bodies. The evidence indicates that the dead are the KLA's own, killed in the previous day's fighting. Nevertheless in May the ICTY (International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia) indites Milosevic and four of his aides for the killings. [41]

March - The US puts forward the Rambouillet peace proposal. It requires the withdrawal of Yugoslav troops from Kosovo and the return of Kosovo autonomy. To this Milosevic agrees. But it also calls for the NATO occupation of the whole of Yugoslavia, which he refuses to accept. A Senate foreign policy aide reveals that "a senior Administration official told media at Rambouillet, under embargo, 'We intentionally set the bar too high for the Serbs to comply. They need some bombing and that's what they're going to get' ". The press dutifully doesn't report this. NATO air strikes begin on the 24th of March and continue for 78 days. [33]

The NATO bombings, which require international observers to be withdrawn, precipitate a number of actions by the Serb forces. NATO governments and media are quick to claim thousands are killed in ethnic cleansing, but subsequent investigations reveal far fewer dead. There was apparently no ethnic cleansing and no mass rape. NATO's bombing may well have killed more civilians than the Serbs did and certainly led to more people fleeing as refugees. [2] [4] [5] [6] [7] [8] [33]

Milosevic repeatedly offers to resume talks, but is ignored by NATO. The governments of Greece and Italy, both NATO states, formally protest continued bombing. Amongst other illegalities the bombing targets non military facilities and uses cluster bombs and depleted uranium weapons. Civilian targets hit include hospitals, refugee convoys and crowded bridges. At least 500 civilians are killed in NATO attacks and possibly several times more than that. [8] [33] [52]

April - a NATO missile strikes Milosevic's home. The Pentagon denies it is targeting him. [3]

June - A peace plan is signed, but bombing continues for three more days as Milosevic insists on UN participation in the administration of Kosovo, as promised in the peace deal, rather than just NATO administration. [33]

NATO (KFOR) occupies Kosovo with 50 000 personnel. The Yugoslav army withdraws ahead of schedule, but the KLA does not disarm. Many Serb civilians are attacked and killed and 200 000+ flee to Serbia. KFOR officers say they are ordered to disregard such crimes. The KLA is renamed the Kosovo Protection Corps (KPC) under UN auspices. [4] [8] [33]

Yugoslavia is now the poorest nation in Europe. Billions of dollars were available for the bombings and arms companies have made huge profits, but little is made available for aid. [8] [33]

1999-2000:

US is apparently behind a number of assassination attempts on Milosevic. It also makes efforts to ensure he is not re-elected in 2000, funding opposition parties and encouraging unrest. [3]

2000:

As many predicted, NATO takes control of Kosovo's industries and starts handing contracts to foreign corporations. The richest prize is the Trepca mining complex, seized by NATO forces on the grounds of environmental concerns. [33] [42] [43]

The US supports opposition parties in Serbia to try and ensure Milosevic loses the election due in September. They and the British also support Montenegro's president Djukanovic, who has adopted a heavily pro Western stance. [3]

January - In the face of trade sanctions from the U.S. and other nations, the Serbian economy continues to deteriorate and dissent spreads. Montenegro discusses separating from Serbia. [1]

May - Goran Zugic, security advisor to secessionist Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic, is murdered. The CIA is accused of complicity in the murder. [3]

The KLA/KPC still remain in Kosovo, led by Agim Ceku who is under investigation for war crimes committed in Croatia between 1993 and 1995. They continue attacks against non Albanians, unchecked by KFOR. MPRI are again training the KLA/KPC. [33]

September - Opposition leader Vojislav Kostunica wins elections held Sept. 24., after a campaign heavily funded and guided by the US. Milosevic refuses to release the complete results, demanding a runoff election. [1] [44]

October - A popular uprising begins. A general strike is called and one million people flood Belgrade. Mobs attack Parliament building, security forces join them or retreat. Milosevic support crumbles, he steps down. Kostunica takes office, with Djindjic as prime minister. U.S., European Union begin to lift economic sanctions, offer aid. [1] [44]

2001:

April - Milosevic is arrested by Yugoslavian authorities and charged with corruption and abuse of power. [1]

June - Milosevic is turned over to the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague. The move is contrary to the Yugoslav constitution and taken against the will of parliament. [1] [45] [46]

September - The UN Security Council lifts its arms embargo against Yugoslavia, abolishing the last remaining sanction by the international community. [1]

2002:

February - Slobodan Milosevic begin his trial at the UN International Criminal Tribunal on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity in Bosnia, Croatia, and Kosovo, as well as for committing genocide in Bosnia. He is the first head of state to face an international war-crimes court. [1] However the ICTY is arguably completely illegitimate. [50]

2003:

February - The nation agrees to form a new state, replacing Yugoslavia with a loose federation called Serbia and Montenegro. The new arrangement was made to placate Montenegro's restive stirrings for independence, and allows for a referendum on independence to occur in three years' time. [1]

12th March - The prime minister of Serbia, Zoran Djindjic, a reformer who helped bring about the fall of Slobodan Milosevic, is assassinated. Extreme nationalists, organized crime, and Serbia's own police and security services were implicated. [1] [47]

28th December - Parliamentary elections saw a resurgence of ultra-nationalists. Slobodan Milosevic's Socialist party received 7% of the vote, and the Radical party, whose leader, like Milosevic, is an indicted war criminal jailed in the Hague, received 27% of the vote. [1]

2004:

February – It is increasingly obvious that the trial of Milosevic is a sham. [9]

17th March - Mitrovica, in Kosovo, experiences the worst ethnic violence in the regions since the 1999 war. At least 22 people are killed, another 500 are injured and almost a 1 000 Serbs are driven from their homes. NATO sends in an extra 1,000 troops to restore order. The violence began after Serbs claimed a Serb teenager was the victim of a drive-by shooting and ethnic Albanians blamed Serbs for the drowning of two Albanian children. Some say the violence was organised by ethnic Albanian militants. [1] [48]

April – Milosevic requests Clinton, Blair and others to be witnesses in his trial. [10]

May - Prominent journalist and critic of Montenegrin government, Dusko Jovanovic, shot dead. His paper, Dan, is seen as a mouthpiece for the republic's anti-independence opposition, and had made allegations of corruption in the Montenegrin leadership. [49]

June - Democratic Party leader Boris Tadic elected Serbian president, defeating nationalist Tomislav Nikolic in run-off. Mr Tadic pledges to steer Serbia towards the EU. [49]

2005:

January - Ethnic Albanians protest after Serbian border guards shoot and kill ethnic Albanian youth illegally crossing border with Macedonia. [49]

February - Montenegrin leaders write to Serbian counterparts suggesting early end to union with Serbia and establishment of two independent republics. Serbian Prime Minister Vojislav Kostunica rejects suggestion. [49]

June - Prime Minister Kostunica announces arrests of several Serbian paramilitaries who appear in video screened on TV and alleged to show them executing Bosnian Muslims from Srebrenica in 1995. [49]

July - Eight former secret police officers jailed for up to 40 years for murder in 2000 of Serbia's former president Ivan Stambolic. [49]

The trial of Milosevic still fails to produce any evidence to support the main charges against him. [51]

Summary

1918: Yugoslavia is formed.

1945: Axis defeated. Tito rules.

1949-1951: West aids Tito.

1950s: Growth & independence.

1960s: Inflation, deficits, foreign investment, North-South tensions.

1970s: Unrest in republics.

1980: Tito dies. Tensions rise.

1980s: IMF exacerbates problems.

1989-1995: Milosevic halts IMF reforms. West encourages violent dissolution; casts Serbs as villains; backs war against them; spurns diplomacy; NATO enforces US deal.

1996-1999: West uses KLA to draw Serbia into conflict in Kosovo. NATO bombs Serbia. False Serb atrocity reports. Peace on NATO's terms.

1999-2000: The West ensures Milosevic is not re-elected. NATO hands Kosovo's industries to foreign firms. US & UK also interfere in Montenegro's politics.

2001: Milosevic handed to UN for sham trial. UN lifts arms embargo.

2003: Serbia & Montenegro formed.

Albania

1949-1953:

The U.S. and Britain try unsuccessfully to overthrow the communist government and install a new one that would be pro-Western and composed largely of monarchists and collaborators with Italian fascists and Nazis. [1]

Greece**1942-1944:**

Fierce resistance to the occupation by communist and royalist factions alike. [1]

1944:

British and Greek forces combine to force Nazi withdrawal. With backing from Britain, Georgios Papandreou becomes prime minister. Communists protest. Tensions rise and there is sporadic violence. [1]

1946-1949:

Royalist parties win elections, restore monarchy. Civil war ensues. [1]

U.S. intervenes in the civil war, taking the side of the neo-fascists against the Greek left which had fought the Nazis courageously. The neo-fascists win and instituted a highly brutal regime, for which the CIA create a new internal security agency, KYP. Before long, KYP is carrying out all the endearing practices of secret police everywhere, including systematic torture. [2] [3]

1952:

New constitution declares Greece a parliamentary democracy with a monarch as head of state. Greece joins Nato. [1]

1955:

Konstantinos Karamanlis becomes prime minister. [1]

1964:

King Constantine II succeeds his father, Paul. [1]

Papandreou is elected in February with the only outright majority in the history of modern Greek elections. Machinations to unseat him begin immediately, a joint effort of the Royal Court, the Greek military, and the American military and CIA stationed in Greece. [2]

1965:

July - George Papandreou is finally maneuvered out of office by royal prerogative. The king had a coalition of breakaway Center Union Deputies (Papandreou's party) and rightists waiting in the wings to form a new government. It is later revealed by a State Department official that the CIA Chief-of-Station in Athens, John Maury, had "worked in behalf of the palace in 1965. He helped King Constantine buy Center Union Deputies so

that the George Papandreou Government was toppled. For nearly two years thereafter, various short-lived cabinets ruled until it was no longer possible to avoid holding the elections prescribed by the constitution. [5]

1967-1974:

A military coup takes place in April 1967, just two days before the campaign for national elections are to begin, elections which appeared certain to bring the veteran liberal leader George Papandreou back as prime minister. The coup is followed immediately by the traditional martial law, censorship, arrests, beatings, torture, and killings, the victims totaling some 8,000 in the first month. This is accompanied by the equally traditional declaration that this was all being done to save the nation from a "Communist takeover." Corrupting and subversive influences in Greek life are to be removed. Among these are miniskirts, long hair, and foreign newspapers; church attendance for the young will be compulsory. [2] [3] [4] [5]

It is torture, however, which most indelibly marks the seven-year Greek nightmare. James Becket, an American attorney sent to Greece by Amnesty International, writes in December 1969 that "a conservative estimate would place at not less than two thousand" the number of people tortured, usually in the most gruesome of ways, often with equipment supplied by the United States. [2]

Becket reports the following: Hundreds of prisoners have listened to the little speech given by Inspector Basil Lambrou, who sits behind his desk which displays the red, white, and blue clasped-hand symbol of American aid. He tries to show the prisoner the absolute futility of resistance: "You make yourself ridiculous by thinking you can do anything. The world is divided in two. There are the communists on that side and on this side the free world. The Russians and the Americans, no one else. What are we? Americans. Behind me there is the government, behind the government is NATO, behind NATO is the U.S. You can't fight us, we are Americans." [2]

George Papandreou was not any kind of radical. He was a liberal anti-Communist type. But his son Andreas, the heir-apparent, while only a little to the left of his father had not disguised his wish to take Greece out of the Cold War, and had questioned remaining in NATO, or at least as a satellite of the United States. [2]

1973:

November - A falling-out within the Greek inner circle culminates in the ousting of Papadopoulos and his replacement by Col. Demetrios Ioannidis, Commander of the Military Police, torturer, graduate of American training in anti-subversive techniques, confidant of the CIA. Ioannidis names as prime minister a Greek-American, A. Androutsopoulos, who came to Greece after the Second World War as an official employee of the CIA, a fact of which Mr. Androutsopoulos has often boasted. [5]

1974:

July - The Ioannidis regime overthrows the government of Cyprus. It is a fatal miscalculation. Turkey invades Cyprus and the reverberations in Athens result in the military giving way to a civilian government. [5]

Exiled Karamanlis recalled and sworn in as prime minister. Referendum rejects restoration of monarchy. [1]

1975:

New constitution declares Greece a parliamentary republic with some executive powers vested in a president. [1]

1980:

Karamanlis elected president. [1]

1981:

Greece joins EU. Andreas Papandreou's Socialist Party (Pasok) wins elections. [1]

1985:

Karamanlis resigns in protest at government plans to reduce powers of president. Christos Sartzetakis becomes head of state. [1]

1986:

Constitutional amendment transfers some of president's powers to the legislature. [1]

1990:

Centre-right New Democracy party forms government under party leader Constantine Mitsotakis. [1]

1991:

Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia declares independence. [1]

Greece objects to name and flag of Republic of Macedonia on grounds they imply territorial claims to the Greek province of Macedonia. [1]

1993:

Election returns Papandreou to power. [1]

1995:

Relations with Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia normalised. [1]

1996:

Tension flares between Greece and Turkey over disputed Aegean islet. [1]

Papandreou resigns because of illness and dies shortly afterwards. Succeeded by Kostas Simitis. [1]

1999:

September - Earthquake hits Athens - dozens killed, thousands left homeless. [1]

2000:

June - Senior British diplomat, Brigadier Stephen Saunders, shot dead in Athens by left-wing guerrilla group November 17. [1]

2001:

May - Pope John Paul II visits, asks for forgiveness for sins committed by Roman Catholics against Orthodox faith, in particular sacking of Constantinople (present-day Istanbul) by crusaders in 1204. [1]

2002:

January - Euro replaces drachma. [1]

March - Greek, Turkish governments agree to build gas pipeline through which Turkey will supply Greece with gas. [1]

July - Suspected leader and members of November 17 terror group arrested after one of them is injured, allegedly by his own bomb, and provides information to police. [1]

2003:

December - Trial of November 17 suspects ends with their conviction. Head of group and its main hitman jailed for life. [1]

2004:

February - Following Mr Simitis' decision to call March elections and stand down as Pasok leader, George Papandreou takes over as party chief. [1]

March - Conservative New Democracy party led by Costas Karamanlis wins general election, ending over a decade of Pasok government. [1]

June - Greek football team wins Euro-2004 tournament. [1]

August - Athens hosts Olympic Games. [1]

Summary

1942-1944: Greeks resist Nazis.

1944: British and Greeks force Nazis out. British meddle.

1946-1949: Monarchy restored. Civil war ensues.

U.S. supports neo-fascists.

1952: Greece joins Nato.

1964: US works against PM Papandreou.

1965: Papandreou removed with CIA help.

1967-1974: Military coup. Regime supported by US.

1973: Ex CIA assets take power.

1974: Greek intervention in Cyprus. Collapse of military rule in Greece.

1975: New constitution.

1981: Greece joins EU.

1996: Greece/Turkey tensions.

2002: Euro replaces drachma.

2003: Head of November 17 group and its main hitman jailed.

2004: Athens hosts Olympic Games.

Chechnya

1858:

After decades of violent resistance, Chechnya is conquered by Russia following the defeat of Imam Shamil and his fighters, who had aimed to establish an Islamic state. [2]

1922:

Chechen autonomous region established; becomes the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in 1934. [2]

1944:

Soviet dictator Stalin deports the entire Chechen and Ingush populations to Siberia and Central Asia, citing alleged collaboration with Nazi Germany. Many thousands die in the process. [2]

1957:

Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev restores the Chechen-Ingush Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic. [2]

1991:

Collapse of the Soviet Union. Communist leader Doku Zavgayev overthrown; Dzhokhar Dudayev wins a presidential poll and proclaims Chechnya independent of Russia. [2]

1992:

Chechnya adopts a constitution defining it as an independent, secular state governed by a president and parliament. [2]

1994:

December - Russian troops enter Chechnya to quash the independence movement. Up to 100,000 people - many of them civilians - are estimated to have been killed in the 20-month war that followed. [2]

1995:

June - Chechen rebels seize hundreds of hostages at a hospital in Budennovsk, southern Russia. More than 100 are killed in the raid and in an unsuccessful Russian commando operation. [2]

1996:

April - Dudayev killed in a Russian missile attack; Zemlikhan Yandarbiyev succeeds him. [2]

May - Russian President Boris Yeltsin and Yandarbiyev sign a peace agreement; the short-lived truce lasts until July. [2]

August - Chechen rebels launch a successful attack on Grozny; Yeltsin's security chief General Alexander Lebed and Chechen rebel chief of staff Aslan Maskhadov sign the Khasavyurt Accords which provide for a ceasefire. An agreement on Russian troop withdrawals is signed in November. [2]

1997:

January - Russia recognises Maskhadov's government following his victory in Chechen presidential elections. [2]

May - Yeltsin and Maskhadov sign a formal peace treaty, but the issue of Chechen independence is not resolved. [2]

1998:

May - Valentin Vlasov, Russia's presidential representative in Chechnya, is kidnapped and held for six months. Later in the year, four engineers from Britain and New Zealand are kidnapped and murdered. [2]

June - Amid growing lawlessness, Maskhadov imposes a state of emergency. [2]

1999:

January/February - Maskhadov declares Islamic Shari'ah law will be phased in over three years. [2]

A group of former rebel field commanders announces the formation of a rival body to govern Chechnya according to Shari'ah law and calls on Aslan Maskhadov to relinquish the presidency. [2]

March - Moscow's top envoy to Chechnya, General Gennadiy Shpigun, is kidnapped from the airport in Grozny. His corpse is found in Chechnya in March 2000. [2]

July/August - Chechen fighters clash with Russian troops on the Chechnya-Dagestan border; Chechen rebels stage armed incursions into Dagestan in an attempt to create an Islamic state. [2]

September - A bomb attack on Russian military housing in Dagestan and a series of apartment block bombings elsewhere in Russia are blamed on Chechen rebels; some 300 people are killed in the blasts. Russian forces redeploy in Chechnya; the new prime minister, Vladimir Putin, says the campaign is needed to quash terrorism. [2]

October - Moscow-based State Council of the Republic of Chechnya established by former members of the Chechen republican legislature. Moscow recognises it as the sole legitimate Chechen authority and refuses to negotiate with Maskhadov. [2]

Many thousands of civilians flee the Russian advance, leaving Chechnya for neighbouring Russian republics. Their numbers are later estimated to reach 200,000. [2]

2000:

February - Russian troops capture Grozny; much of the city is razed. [2]

As Russian forces ferociously bomb the Chechnyan capital, Grozny, reducing the city to rubble, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook says he 'understood' Russia's problems in Chechnya. [1]

May - President Putin declares direct rule from Moscow. [2]

June - Russia appoints former Chechen cleric Akhmat Kadyrov as head of its administration in Chechnya. [2]

2001:

Human rights organisations express concern about human rights violations in Chechnya, including alleged torture and widespread detentions at the hands of Russian troops. Concerns are fuelled by the discovery of a mass grave filled with mutilated bodies. [2] [3]

September - Major rebel offensive on the Chechen town of Gudermes; a Russian helicopter carrying senior officers is downed. [2]

In the aftermath of the 11 September attacks on the US, Putin urges rebels to "halt all contacts with international terrorists". [2]

November - First official negotiations since 1999 as Maskhadov's representative Akhmed Zakayev and Russia's Kazantsev hold talks on a peace settlement in Moscow. [2]

December - Captured rebel field commander Salman Raduyev sentenced to life imprisonment on murder, terrorism charges. [2]

2002:

July - UN suspends aid operations in Chechnya for six months after the kidnapping of a Russian aid worker. [2]

August - Georgia accuses Russia of carrying out air raids in the Pankisi gorge, close to Georgia's border with Chechnya. Moscow says the gorge is a safe haven for Chechen rebel groups and presses for an international operation to flush them out. [2]

October - Chechen rebels seize a Moscow theatre and hold about 800 people hostage. Most of the rebels and some 120 hostages are killed when Russian forces storm the building. [2] [4]

In midst of continuing Russian atrocities in Chechnya, Tony Blair says 'it is important to understand the Russian perspective'. [1]

December - Suicide bomb attack on the Grozny headquarters of the Russian-backed Chechen government kills around 80 people. Rebels claim responsibility. [2]

2003:

March - Russians hail Chechen referendum vote in favour of a new constitution stipulating that the republic is part of the Russian Federation. Human rights groups, among others, are strongly critical of Russia for pushing ahead with referendum before peace has been established. [2]

May - Over 50 people killed in suicide bombing of government building in the north of the republic. Just two days later, administration chief Kadyrov has narrow escape in another suicide attack which leaves over a dozen dead. [2]

October - Kadyrov elected president. [2]

December - Russian forces kill about a dozen Chechen fighters after band of rebels crosses border into neighbouring Dagestan and takes hostages. [2]

2004:

February - Former Chechen president, Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev, killed in explosion in Qatar, where he had been living for three years. [2]

May - President Kadyrov and numerous others killed in Grozny bomb blast. [2]

Summary

1858: Russia conquers Chechnya.

1922: Chechen autonomous region established.

1944: Stalin deports the entire Chechen and Ingush populations.

1957: Autonomous region restored.

1991: Chechen president declares independence.

1994: Russian troops quash independence movement.

1996: Peace agreement signed.

1997: Peace treaty signed, issue of independence is not resolved.

1999: Russian forces redeploy in Chechnya.

2000: Russian troops capture Grozny; much of the city is razed.

UK give diplomatic support for Russia's actions.

President Putin declares direct rule from Moscow.

2001: Human rights violations in Chechnya.

2002: Tony Blair gives diplomatic support to Russia despite atrocities.

Turkey

1923:

Assembly declares Turkey a republic and Kemal Ataturk as president. [1]

1925:

Adoption of Gregorian calendar. Prohibition of the fez. [1]

1928:

Turkey becomes secular: clause retaining Islam as state religion removed from constitution. [1]

1938:

November - President Ataturk dies, succeeded by Ismet Inonu. There is mass outpouring of grief at the death of the popular leader. [1][16]

1939:

October - The Nazi-Soviet nonaggression pact of August prompts Turkey to sign a treaty of mutual assistance with Britain and France.[16]

1941:

June - Hedging its bets, the government concludes a nonaggression treaty with Nazi Germany on June 18, just four days before the Axis invasion of the Soviet Union. [16] Despite German pressure, Turkey at no time permits the passage of Axis troops, ships, or aircraft through or over Turkey and its waters, and the Montreux Convention is scrupulously enforced in the straits. [16]

1944:

August - Turkey breaks diplomatic relations with Adolf Hitler's government. [16]

1945:

February - Neutral for most of World War II, Turkey declares war on Germany and Japan, but does not take part in combat. Joins United Nations. [1] [16]

A proposal is entered by former Prime Minister Bayar, Adnan Menderes, and two additional CHP deputies calling for changes in Turkish law to assure the domestic application of the liberties and rights to which the government had ostensibly subscribed by accepting the principles of the UN Charter. When the proposal is disallowed, its four proponents leave the CHP and resign their seats in the assembly. Despite the rejection of Menderes's proposal, the government relaxes many wartime controls and agrees to the further democratization of the political process. [16]

1947:

The USA begins to give military aid to Turkey. By the end of fiscal year 1950, over US \$200 million in military aid had been received by Turkey, "along with 1,200 US military advisers." Between 1950 and 1979, a further \$5.8 billion in official military aid was forthcoming and thousands of personnel received US training. The CIA also started to be active in aiding Turkey's actions against the Kurds. [14] [16]

1949:

A secret paramilitary network called "Operation Gladio" is set up by NATO. It eventually has units in nearly all non-communist European countries including Turkey. It is unclear whether these units were controlled by the national governments or NATO, but from an operational point of view they were controlled by the CIA and other intelligence agencies. The network was not uncovered until 1990. [3][13] [14] [15]

1950:

Republic's first open elections, won by opposition Democratic Party. Bayar is elected president and names Menderes prime minister. [1][16]

Turkey demonstrates its gratitude for the military aid received from the United States when it sends a brigade of 4,500 troops to serve under the UN command in Korea. [16]
Between 1950 and 1991, the United States provides military assistance valued at US\$9.4 billion, of which about US\$6.1 billion is in grant form and US\$3.3 billion is on a concessional loan basis. [16]

1952:

Turkey abandons Ataturk's neutralist policy and joins Nato. The headquarters of NATO's Allied Land Forces Southeastern Europe (LANDSOUTHEAST) is established at Izmir. In addition, operational bases near Adana are developed for NATO purposes. [1]
[16]

1954:

A military facilities agreement with the United States permits the opening of further NATO installations and the stationing of United States forces in Turkey. [16]

1955:

Turkey joins with Britain, Iran, Iraq, and Pakistan in the Baghdad Pact, a multilateral defense agreement that becomes the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO) after the overthrow of the Iraqi monarchy in 1958. Headquarters for CENTO are moved to Ankara when Iraq withdraws from the alliance. [16]

1957:

The US government ships arms to Jordan, Lebanon, Iraq, Turkey and Saudi Arabia, as part of an attempt to manufacture a confrontation with Syria which had economic ties with the USSR and had bought some military equipment from them. Turkey also moved about 50,000 troops to the Syrian border. [3]

The government places further restrictions on the press and on public assembly in the run up to the elections in October. [16]

1958:

After the revolution in Iraq which overthrew the Hashemite monarchy there, the US Joint Chiefs of Staff draft a plan for a joint US-Turkish invasion of Iraq, called Operation CANNON-BONE. Reportedly only Soviet threats to intervene on Iraq's side force the US government to hold back. [3]

Israel-Turkey relations are established by a visit to Turkey by the Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. [6]

1960:

When a tour of central Anatolia by CHP leader İnönü in early 1960 becomes the occasion for outbreaks of violence along his route, the Menderes government reacts by suspending all political activity and imposing martial law. [16]

April - Students in Istanbul demonstrating against government policies in defiance of martial law are fired on by police; several are killed. The following week, cadets from the

military academy stage a protest march in solidarity with the student movement, thereby bringing an element of the armed forces into confrontation with civilian authorities. [16]

May - Army coup against ruling Democratic Party. Those arrested are charged with abrogating the constitution and instituting a dictatorship. [1] [16]

The coup is accomplished with little violence and is accepted quickly throughout the country. The government is replaced by the Committee of National Unity (CNU), composed of the thirty-eight officers who had organized the coup. The committee acts as supreme authority, appointing a cabinet, initially consisting of five officers and thirteen civilians, to carry out executive functions. The number of civilians in the cabinet, however, is later reduced to three. General Gürsel, who had fought at Gallipoli under Atatürk, temporarily assumes the positions of president, prime minister, and defense minister. At the outset, Gürsel announces that the committee's rule would be of an interim nature and that government will be returned to civilian hands at an early date. [16]

October - The trial of some 600 former government officials and DP functionaries begins on the island of Yassıada in the Bosphorus. All but about 100 of those tried are found guilty, and fifteen death sentences are pronounced. Partly in response to public appeals for leniency, the death sentences of former President Bayar and eleven others are commuted to life imprisonment, but Menderes and two former cabinet ministers are hanged. [16]

1961:

May - A new constitution is ratified. This constitution, which creates Turkey's so-called Second Republic, contains a number of substantial departures from the 1924 constitution but continues to embody the principles of Kemalism. The new constitution is approved by 60 percent of the electorate. [16]

October - The elections give no party a clear majority, leaving the need for a coalition to be formed. In the end the two leading parties can not agree and an interim government is appointed to serve until the 1965 elections. [16]

1962:

During the "Cuban Missile Crisis" the Russian leader Khrushchev offers to withdraw missiles from Cuba if the US withdraws theirs from Turkey. The offer is not accepted. [3] In a highly provocative gesture as the crisis intensifies, the USA turns over control of the Jupiter nuclear missiles to Turkish command "with ceremonial fanfare". [6]

1963:

Association agreement signed with European Economic Community (EEC). [1]

1964:

Conflict between the Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus brings Turkey and Greece close to war. The Greek Cypriots favoured union with Greece whilst the Turkish speaking minority proposed partitioning the island. [16]

1965:

Suleyman Demirel becomes prime minister - a position he is to hold seven times. [1]
[16]

1967:

Again conflict between the Turkish and Greek communities of Cyprus brings Turkey and Greece close to war. [16]

The Turkish government does not permit use of bases in Turkey for United States operations during the Arab-Israeli war. [16]

1969:

The AP party wins the elections again and Suleyman Demirel remains prime minister.
[16]

1970:

The Demirel government's majority in the Grand National Assembly gradually dissipates after the 1969 general election as factions within the circle of its initial supporters regroup in new political constellations. In 1970 three small rightist parties that had usually cooperated with the government merge as the National Salvation Party (Milli Selamet Partisi--MSP), an explicitly Islamic-oriented party that imposes politically compromising demands on Demirel as the price of their continued support. [16]

1971:

Some former AP members desert the AP to form the more right-wing Democratic Party. Other, more liberal AP members, dissatisfied with Demirel's concessions to the right, defect from the party and sit as independents. As a result of these shifts, the Demirel government loses its parliamentary majority and, in the eyes of critics, forfeits its right to govern the country. Acts of politically motivated violence and terrorism escalate in frequency and intensity. Unrest is fueled in part by economic distress, perceptions of social inequities, and the slowness of reform, but protest is increasingly directed at Turkey's military and economic ties to the West. [16]

March - The armed forces chiefs, headed by army commander General Faruk Gürler, present a memorandum to President Sunay demanding the installation of a "strong and credible government." The military leaders warn civilian officials that the armed forces will be compelled to take over the administration of the state once again unless a government is found that can curb the violence and implement the economic and social reforms, including land reform, stipulated in the 1961 constitution. Demirel resigns the same day. The incident is referred to as the "coup by memorandum." [16]

The coup is supported by the CIA who, "acting through the MIT (Turkish intelligence service) and the counter-guerrilla, promote right-wing psychological warfare terrorist actions to destabilise the Turkish government and to prepare the way for the military coup." They also assist in the coup itself because, according to former US diplomat

Robert Fresco, the government had simply become incapable of containing the growing anti-US radicalism in Turkey. [9] [14] [15]

1973:

The elections give no overall majority to any party. No lasting coalition is formed. [16]

As in 1967 the Turkish government does not permit use of bases in Turkey for United States operations during the Arab-Israeli war. [16]

1974:

July - President of Cyprus, Archbishop Makarios III, demands withdrawal of Greek army officers assigned to the National Guard on the well-founded charge that they are using their position to subvert his government. In reaction, Athens engineers an anti-Makarios coup, which is carried out successfully by conspirators planning union with Greece. In Ankara, Prime Minister Ecevit condemns the coup as constituting a direct threat to Cyprus's Turkish minority. [16]

Some 30,000 Turkish troops, supported by air and naval units, are dropped or landed on Cyprus in the Kyrenia area and advance toward Nicosia, the Cypriot capital. A UN ceasefire comes into effect on July 22nd. [16]

August - Talks at Geneva break down and Turkish troops on Cyprus advance, taking control of all territory north of a line running from Lefka in the west to Famagusta in the east. [16]

1975:

February - Turkish Federated State of Cyprus is established in the northern region with Denktas as president. [16]

The United States Congress imposes an arms embargo on Turkey on the grounds that United States-supplied military equipment had been used illegally during the Cyprus operation. The executive branch of the US government opposes this embargo. [16]

March - Five right of center parties form a minority coalition government under Demirel's premiership. [16]

1976:

Earthquake kills more than 5,000 people in western Van province. [1]

1977:

The CHP wins the elections but not by sufficient margin to form a single party government. It fails to form a coalition. At length opposition leader Demirel puts together another right of center government, but it soon proves unworkable. Also groups identified with one of the coalition partners, the MHP, are among the principal instigators of the mounting political violence. On the last day of 1977, the Demirel government is defeated on a vote of confidence in which a dozen AP deputies side with the CHP opposition. The party leaders having ruled out a "grand coalition," President Korutürk turns to Ecevit to lead a new government, which is backed by a four-seat parliamentary majority. [16]

The economy is in crisis inflation has reached about 50% and unemployment is officially estimated to be about 30%. [16]

1978:

US arms embargo resulting from invasion of Cyprus lifted. [1] [16]

The Ecevit administration is crisis-ridden from the start. The prime minister's attempt to combine regard for civil liberties with tougher law-and-order measures satisfied no one, least of all the military and the police. In December 1978, the government is forced to proclaim martial law in thirteen provinces in reaction to a serious outbreak of sectarian violence. [16]

IMF restructuring plans and austerities have a further detrimental effect on the economy. [16]

The Kurdistan Workers' Party (Partiya Karkeran Kurdistan--PKK), an armed Kurdish guerrilla organization, is founded by Abdullah Öcalan. [16]

1979:

April - The calm imposed by martial law is only temporary, and the government extends legal restrictions. [16]

October - Ecevit resigns after the CHP loses ground to the AP in by-elections, and advises President Korutürk to summon Demirel to replace him. Demirel rejects Ecevit's subsequent proposal for a "grand coalition" and chooses instead to put together a technocratic government whose members are selected for their competence rather than their political affiliation. Subsidies to state enterprises are reduced as part of a plan for restructuring, but attempts to rationalize the workforce and control labor costs are challenged by the trade unions in a series of strikes. Demirel counters by extending martial law still further, imposing severe curbs on union activity, and restricting public assembly. Meanwhile, military leaders make no secret of their uneasiness at the growing influence that religious sectarianism is having on politics in obvious defiance of the constitution. [16]

1980:

April - President Korutürk's seven-year term in office expires. After 100 ballots, the joint session of the Grand National Assembly fail to agree on a successor. Korutürk retires on schedule, and the chairman of the Senate, İhsan Sabri Çaglayangil, is installed as acting president of the republic. Çaglayangil can do little more than provide the signature necessary for the enactment of legislation. [16]

September - On September 5, Ecevit aligns the CHP with Erbakan and his NSP to force the resignation of Demirel's foreign minister, Hayrettin Erkman, whose strongly pro-Western views have won him the approval of General Staff officers. The next day, the NSP sponsors a massive rally at Konya, where Islamists (also seen as fundamentalists) demonstrate to demand the reinstatement of Islamic law in Turkey, reportedly showing disrespect for the flag and the national anthem. These acts are

regarded as an open renunciation of Kemalism and a direct challenge to the military. [16]

In the early morning hours of September 12, the armed forces seize control of the country. There is no organized resistance to the coup; indeed, many Turks welcome it as the only alternative to anarchy. A five-member executive body, the National Security Council (NSC), is appointed. Composed of the service chiefs and the gendarmerie commander, it is headed by General Evren, who is recognized as head of state. On September 21, the NSC installs a predominantly civilian cabinet and names Bülent Ulusu, a recently retired admiral, prime minister. A 160-member Consultative Assembly subsequently is appointed to draft a constitution for what would become Turkey's Third Republic. [16]

As in 1971 the coup is supported by the CIA. "According to the ... journalist (Mehmet Ali Birand, the) US Secretary of State ... phoned (the US) President ... on the day of the coup to tell him: 'Your boys have done it. Those who were to intervene, have intervened.' One of the 'boys' was General Sahinkaya, Chief of the Air Force and one of the five members of the (junta's) National Security Council (NSC). He had a series of high-level meetings in Washington in the week preceding the military intervention." [9] [10] [14]

Martial law is extended to all the provinces. Suspected militants of all political persuasions as well as trade union and student activists are arrested, and party leaders are taken into custody along with a large number of deputies. Demirel and Ecevit are soon released but told to keep a low profile. When Ecevit begins to publish political articles, he is rearrested and jailed for several months. The Grand National Assembly is dissolved and its members barred from politics for periods of up to ten years. Political parties are abolished and their assets liquidated by the state. The trade unions are purged and strikes banned. Workers who were striking at the time of the coup are given substantial pay raises and ordered back to their jobs. [16]

In 1997 Human Rights Watch reports that the use of torture increased after this coup and became widespread. [11]

US military assistance this year amounts to US\$250 million, and economic aid to about US\$200 million. [16]

Turkey's international reputation suffers as a result of charges of political repression, arbitrary arrest, imprisonment without trial, torture, and other human rights violations. West European governments appeal to the military regime to restore parliamentary rule, and a portion of the OECD's relief package for Turkey is withheld. The European Community also suspends financial assistance, and Turkish delegates are denied their seats in the assembly of the Council of Europe. [16]

The United States, unlike European countries, does not, now or at other times, persistently and publicly criticize Turkey over allegations human rights violations. [16]

The performance of the Turkish economy improves significantly in the first two years after the military intervention. [16]

1982:

New constitution creates seven-year presidency, and reduces parliament to single house. [1] [16]

1983:

March - A new law on political parties is issued, which includes a ten-year ban on all politicians active in the pre-September 1980 period. Parties are invited to form so as to contest parliamentary elections later in the year but are required to receive approval from the military rulers. Of fifteen parties requesting certification, only three receive approval: the Motherland Party (Anavatan Partisi--ANAP), the Populist Party (Halkçı Partisi--HP), and the Nationalist Democracy Party (Milliyetçi Demokrasi Partisi--MDP), the latter being the clear favorite of the military. [16]

A detachment of NATO's Airborne Early Warning Force is installed at the Konya Air Base in southwestern Turkey. [16]

November - General election won by Turgut Ozal's Motherland Party (ANAP). [1]

1984:

Turkey recognises "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." [1]

March - Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) launches separatist guerrilla war in southeast. [1] [16]

The 1997 Human Rights Watch report on Turkey's use of torture also notes the the PKK's human rights abuses in its fight with Turkey. [11]

1986:

The assembly repeals the provisional article of the constitution that would have banned some politicians from political activity until 1991.[16]

The EC restores economic aid and permits Turkey to reoccupy its seats in European deliberative councils. [16]

November - Elections see the ANAP retain a majority in the assembly, but only because of amended election laws. [16]

1987:

March - Greece and Turkey nearly come to blows over oil-drilling rights in the Aegean Sea. [16]

Turkey applies for full EEC membership. [1]

Turkey bombs Iraqi Kurdish villages that Ankara claims are bases for PKK guerrillas. [16]

1989:

October - parliament elected Özal Turkey's eighth president. [16]

1990:

August - The Turkish government moves quickly to support UN sanctions against Iraq, on August 7 stopping the flow of oil through the pipeline from Iraq to Turkey's Mediterranean coast. [16]

September - The assembly votes to allow foreign troops onto Turkish soil and to authorize Turkish troops to serve in the Persian Gulf.[16]

Turkey allows US-led coalition against Iraq to launch air strikes from Turkish bases. In addition, Turkish troops are deployed along the Turkish-Iraqi border, although Ankara insists that it does not intend to open a second front against Iraq and that it remains committed to Iraq's territorial integrity. [1] [16]

In the aftermath of the Persian Gulf War, Iraqi Kurds attempt to throw off the rule of Saddam Husayn in northern Iraq, following encouragement by United States officials. The uprising, which fails to receive support from the allied coalition, is quickly crushed, leading a massive number of Iraqi Kurdish civilians to seek safety in Iran and Turkey. The Turkish government is unable or unwilling to permit several hundred thousand refugees to enter the country. The coalition allies, together with Turkey, propose the creation of a "security zone" in northern Iraq. By mid-May 1991, some 200,000 Kurdish refugees have been persuaded to return to Iraq. [16]

1991:

United States use of Turkish military installations during the bombing of Iraq leads to antiwar demonstrations in several cities, and sporadic attacks on United States facilities continues in 1992 and 1993. [16]

The US raises military aid to US\$500 million this year. [16]

Starting this year PKK guerrillas from camps in Syria, Iran, and Iraq, as well as from inside Turkey itself, attack Turkish military and police outposts and target civilian community leaders and teachers. [16]

April - Law 2932, passed in 1983 (declaring the mother tongue of Turkish citizens to be Turkish), is repealed, thereby legalizing Kurdish speech, song, and music. [16]

October - Parliamentary elections see power pass from the Motherland Party to its major rival, the True Path Party. [16]

1992:

20,000 Turkish troops enter Kurdish safe havens in Iraq in anti-PKK operation. [1]

Turkey joins Black Sea alliance. [1]

October - Iraqi Kurds and the Turkish army carry out a joint offensive against PKK bases in Iraqi Kurdistan, forcing the surrender of more than 1,000 PKK fighters. [16]

1993:

April - President Özal dies suddenly of a heart attack. [16]

May - Tansu Ciller becomes Turkey's first woman prime minister, and Demirel elected president. [1] [16]

Ceasefire with PKK breaks down. [1]

The PKK target villages known to be sympathetic to the government, murdering state officials, teachers, government collaborators, and paramilitary village guards. In an especially cruel incident in May that ends a two-month cease-fire announced by the PKK, a PKK unit executes thirty unarmed military recruits after ambushing several buses. [16]

US Congress approves US\$450 million military aid, but shifts the financing from grants to loans. [16]

1994:

Increased numbers of security forces are mobilized against the Kurds in a government campaign of mounting intensity. One government strategy is forced evacuation and in a number of instances burning some 850 Kurdish villages to prevent them from harboring PKK insurgents. Although militarily successful, the evacuations cause great hardship to the villagers. [16]

As the Turkish government steps up its actions against the Kurds, the UK steps up its arms exports to Turkey; £68 million worth in 1994 and peaking at £107 million in 1996. In the next four years the Turkish government destroys 3,500 Kurdish villages, makes at least 1.5 million people homeless and internally displaces and kills untold thousands. [4] Human Rights Watch reports on the state control of women's virginity in Turkey, including the use of virginity examinations. [12]

The United States Congress holds back 10 percent of the funds appropriated for Turkey until the Department of State can verify improvement of Turkey's human rights record and progress on confidence-building measures in Cyprus. Turkey considers this interference in its internal affairs and makes no effort to have the funds restored. Despite this reduction, US\$405 million in low-interest loans are approved. [16]

1995:

Major military offensive launched against the Kurds in northern Iraq, involving some 35,000 Turkish troops. [1]

The US and UK allow this operation in the "no fly zone". [2]

Center coalition collapses. Pro-Islamist Welfare Party wins elections but lacks support to form government - two major center-right parties form anti-Islamist coalition. [1]

Turkey enters EU customs union. [1]

1996:

Center-right coalition falls. Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan heads first pro-Islamic government since 1923. [1]

1997:

Coalition resigns after campaign led by the military, replaced by a new coalition led by the center-right Motherland Party of Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz. [1]

The USA hugely increases its military aid to Turkey. Turkey soon becomes the third largest recipient of US arms, after Israel and Egypt. [6]

April - The UN High Commissioner for Refugees witnesses oppressed Kurds crossing the border from Turkey into Iraq to seek sanctuary. One refugee, Ahmet Vurgun, states: 'We are not saying Saddam is totally respectful of human rights, but he is the one who is supporting us. Saddam is better than the UN and he is much better than Turkey.' [17]

May - Turkey mounts another operation against the Kurds in Northern Iraq. As before this operation within the "no fly zone" is permitted by the US and UK, this time with 50,000 troops. [2]

1998:

January - Welfare Party - the largest in parliament - banned. Yilmaz resigns amid corruption allegations, replaced by Bulent Ecevit. [1]

Turkey mounts another operation against the Kurds in Northern Iraq. As before this operation within the "no fly zone" is permitted by the US and UK, this time with 10,000 troops. [2]

1999:

The PKK renounces its armed struggle. [4]

February - PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan captured in Kenya. [1]

The UK closes down the Kurdish TV station MED-TV alleging it encourages violence and is financed by the PKK. [4] [5]

July - Ocalan receives death sentence, later commuted to life imprisonment. [1]

August - Devastating earthquake with epicentre at Izmit in Turkey's heavily populated northwest kills 17,000 people. [1]

November - Second quake in same region kills hundreds more. [1]

2000:

Ahmet Necdet Sezer takes over from Suleyman Demirel as president. [1]

Turkey mounts further attacks on the Kurds in Northern Iraq. They bomb villages. When these attacks occur US and UK pilots patrolling the region are ordered to return to base, thus allowing the attacks to proceed unhindered. [2]

2001:

UK arms exports to Turkey reach £179 million this year. Some military and police officers are also trained in the UK. All this despite Turkey's ongoing human rights abuses as noted by Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and others. [4]

The European Court of Human Rights notes that security forces are responsible for house destruction, torture, 'disappearance' and extra-judicial execution in the South East of the country. [4]

January - Diplomatic row with France after French National Assembly recognises the killings of Armenians under the Ottoman Empire as genocide. [1]

March - RAF pilots patrolling the "no fly zone" in Northern Iraq, complain that they are being ordered to return to their bases in Turkey when the Turkish air force wants to

bomb the Kurds in Iraq. The Turkish air force bombs the villages of the very people that the RAF is supposed to be protecting. [2]

May - European Court of Human Rights finds Turkey guilty of violating the rights of Greek Cypriots during its occupation of northern Cyprus. [1]

June - Constitutional Court bans opposition pro-Islamic Virtue Party, saying it had become focus of anti-secular activities. New pro-Islamist party Saadet is set up by former Virtue Party members in July. [1]

November - British construction firm Balfour Beatty and Impregilo of Italy pull out of the controversial Ilisu dam project. Swiss bank UBS follows suit in February 2002. [1]

2002:

January - Turkish men are no longer regarded in law as head of the family. The move gives women full legal equality with men, 66 years after women's rights were put on the statute books. [1]

March - Turkish and Greek governments agree to build a gas pipeline along which Turkey will supply Greece with gas. [1]

July - Pressure for early elections as eight ministers including Foreign Minister Cem resign over ailing PM Ecevit's refusal to step down amid growing economic, political turmoil. Cem launches new party committed to social democracy, EU membership. [1]

August - Parliament approves reforms aimed at securing EU membership. Death sentence to be abolished except in times of war and bans on Kurdish education, broadcasting to be lifted. [1]

November - Islamist-based Justice and Development Party (AK) wins landslide election victory. Party promises to stick to secular principles of constitution. Deputy leader Abdullah Gul appointed premier. [1]

December - Constitutional changes allow head of ruling AK, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, to run for parliament, and so to become prime minister. He had been barred from public office because of previous criminal conviction. [1]

2003:

March - AK leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan wins seat in parliament. Within days Abdullah Gul resigns as prime minister and Erdogan takes over. [1]

Despite heavy financial inducements (\$15bn in aid and loans) and political pressure from the USA, parliament decides not to allow deployment of US forces ahead of war in Iraq, but does allow US use of Turkish air space. It authorises dispatch of Turkish forces into Kurdish areas of northern Iraq. Washington strongly criticises the Turkish government for being swayed by the wishes of the vast majority (95%) of the Turkish people. [1] [6] [8]

Now that the Turkish government has defied Washington's demands the West starts to speak of Turkish atrocities against the Kurds, but not that that the US and UK supported them in this. [6]

May - More than 160 people, many of them schoolchildren trapped in a dormitory, die in an earthquake in the Bingol area. [1]

June-July - Eyeing future EU membership, parliament passes laws easing restrictions on freedom of speech, Kurdish language rights, and on reducing political role of military. [1]

November - 25 people are killed and more than 200 injured when two car bombs explode near Istanbul's main synagogue. Days later two co-ordinated suicide bombings at the British consulate and a British bank in the city kill 28 people. [1]

2004:

January - Turkey signs protocol banning death penalty in all circumstances, a move welcomed in EU circles. [1]

February - More than 60 people killed when apartment block in city of Konya collapses. [1]

March - At least two people killed in a suspected suicide attack on a building housing a Masonic lodge in Istanbul. [1]

May - PKK says it plans to end a ceasefire because of what it calls annihilation operations against its forces. [1]

June - State TV broadcasts first Kurdish-language programme. [1]

Four Kurdish activists, including former MP Leyla Zana, freed from jail. [1]

Nato heads of state gather for summit in Istanbul. [1]

July - Three die in car bomb attack in southeastern town of Van. Authorities accuse the PKK of involvement which it denies. [1]

September - Parliament approves penal reforms introducing tougher measures to prevent torture and violence against women. Controversial proposal on criminalising adultery dropped. [1]

December - EU leaders agree to open talks in 2005 on Turkey's EU accession. The decision, made at a summit in Brussels, follows a deal over an EU demand that Turkey recognise Cyprus as an EU member. [1]

2005:

January - New lira currency introduced as six zeroes are stripped from old lira, ending an era in which banknotes were denominated in millions. [1]

May - Parliament approves amendments to new penal code after complaints that the previous version restricted media freedom. The EU welcomes the move but says the code still fails to meet all its concerns on human rights. [1]

June - Parliament overturns veto by secularist President Sezer on government-backed amendment easing restrictions on teaching of Koran. [1]

July - Six killed in bomb attack on a train in the east. Officials blame the PKK. [1]

Explosion on minibus in resort town of Kusadasi kills at least four people. [1]

October - EU membership negotiations officially launched after intense bargaining. [1]

November - Multi-billion-dollar Blue Stream pipeline carrying Russian gas under the Black Sea to Turkey opens in the port of Samsun. [1]

2006:

March - 14 suspected Kurdish rebels killed by security forces. [1]

April - At least a dozen people are killed in clashes between Kurdish protesters and security forces in the south-east. Several people are killed in related unrest in Istanbul. [1]

May - Islamist gunman opens fire in Turkey's highest court, killing a prominent judge and wounding four others. [1]

July - Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan oil pipeline opened at ceremony in Turkey. [1]

August-September - Bombers target resorts and Istanbul. Shadowy separatist group Kurdistan Freedom Falcons (TAC) claims responsibility for some attacks and warns it will turn "Turkey into hell". [1]

30 September - Kurdish separatist group, the PKK, declares a unilateral ceasefire in operations against the military. [1]

October - The French government makes it illegal to deny that the Armenians suffered genocide at the hands of Turkey in 1915. [7]

Summary

1939-1944: Treaties with UK, France and Nazis.

1945-1958: UN joined. US military aid. Operation Gladio. Troops in Korea. NATO joined. US forces stationed. Baghdad Pact. Syria threatened. Operation Cannon-Bone.

1960: Martial law. Army coup

1962: "Cuban Missile Crisis".

1964-1974: Conflict in Cyprus.

1971: US backed coup.

1975-1978: US arms embargo.

1978: IMF harm. Martial law. PKK.

1980: US backed coup. Repression.

1984 onwards: PKK attacks.

1987 onwards: Iraq Kurds attacked.

1990: US-led war in Iraq backed.

1994: Repression of Kurds. UK arms.

1997: Vast US military aid.

1999: PKK renounces armed struggle. UK shuts Kurdish TV.

2001: UK arms exports.

2003: Some support for Iraq war.